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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Agenda item 4
Ongoing priorities and themes

Draft recommendations submitted by the Rapporteur

Indigenous women

1. The Beijing Platform for Action included indigenous women among those who encounter particular barriers to full equality and advancement, as both women and members of their communities. The review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action acknowledged that indigenous women continue to face many obstacles and challenges, which include multiple forms of discrimination based on gender, race and ethnicity, as well as the impact of globalization and environmental degradation.

2. Redefining the Millennium Development Goals provides an opportunity to incorporate into the Goals the concerns of indigenous peoples, particularly indigenous women. The Millennium Development Goals offer a strategic framework to fully integrate the goals of the Platform for Action, which provides an important human rights-based approach to the development agenda for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, including indigenous women.

3. Due to the cross-cutting nature of gender equality, it is also critical that gender perspectives be fully integrated into the implementation and monitoring of all the other objectives associated with the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals.

4. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommends that appropriate United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as well as States, take immediate action to review and monitor the situation of indigenous women and provide comprehensive reports on violence against indigenous women and girls, particularly sexual violence and violence in the context of armed conflict. Indigenous women must be full participants in this process.

5. The Forum, reaffirming the recommendations on health made at its first, second and third sessions, further recommends that all relevant United Nations entities, especially the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the United

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Nations Population Fund, as well as regional health organizations and Governments, fully incorporate a cultural perspective into health policies and programmes aimed at providing indigenous women with quality health care, including emergency obstetric care, voluntary family planning and skilled attendance at birth. In the latter context, the roles of traditional midwives should be re-evaluated and expanded so that they may assist indigenous women during their reproductive health processes and act as cultural brokers between health systems and the indigenous communities' values and world views.[1]

6. The Forum welcomes the initiative of the International Organization of Migration (IOM) to establish a coordination mechanism for combating the trafficking of indigenous women and girls.

7. United Nations special procedures are an essential tool for monitoring the implementation of priority human rights issues. The Forum recommends that the special procedures with a mandate on gender issues (the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and girls) brief the Forum about the situation of indigenous women each year during its annual sessions.

8. The Forum urges States to intensify efforts at the national level to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, including through national action plans that pay special attention to indigenous women.

9. The Forum recommends that States foster sensitivity towards the cultures of indigenous migrants and ensure that all cultural and customary practices that negatively affect the rights of indigenous women (for example, female genital mutilation) are eliminated, including through specific legislation.

10. The Forum recommends to States and United Nations agencies that they ensure indigenous women's participation in information processes by strengthening access to and use of information and communications technologies (radio, television and the Internet) and ensure indigenous women's meaningful participation in such processes.

11. United Nations agencies and States should pay special attention to the specific situation and needs of elderly indigenous women.

12. The Forum recommends that the Secretary-General, in his report on the study of violence against women, address the particular situation of indigenous women and girls whose suffering is based not only on gender but also on ethnicity and culture.

13. The Forum recommends that the Commission on the Status of Women report to it on the status of the implementation of resolution 49/7 entitled "Indigenous women: beyond the ten-year review of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action"[2] adopted by the Commission in March 2005.

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 23* (E/2004/43), para. 89.

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* (E/2005/27).

Indigenous children and youth

14. The Permanent Forum confirms its commitment to make indigenous children and youth an ongoing part of its work. In so doing, it acknowledges the efforts made by organizations representing indigenous peoples, United Nations bodies and States to address the urgent needs of indigenous children and youth, including in the areas of education, health, culture, extreme poverty, mortality, sexual exploitation, militarization, displacement, incarceration and labour, among others.

15. The Forum is deeply concerned that the problems and discrimination facing indigenous children and youth are not reflected in the Millennium Development Goals, and it urges States and United Nations agencies to develop culturally sensitive policies, programmes and projects that fully incorporate indigenous children and youth in achieving the Goals.

16. The Forum reiterates its call upon those States who have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to report and speed up the implementation of the Forum's recommendations from its fourth session.[3]

17. The Forum reiterates its recommendation to the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues to organize a workshop on policies and best practices in engaging indigenous youth and children on the prevention of suicide among them and to report to the Forum at its next session (2007).

18. The Forum urges United Nations agencies to speed up the implementation of the recommendations made by the Forum at its fourth session.[4]

19. The Forum urges UNICEF as the United Nations central agency on children to speed up the implementation of recommendations made by the Forum at previous sessions that so far have not been addressed, including its recommendation to adopt a policy relating to indigenous youth and children.

20. The Forum reiterates its recommendation that UNICEF appoint a goodwill ambassador for indigenous children and youth to raise awareness of their precarious situation.

21. The Forum supports the declaration and recommendations made by indigenous children and adolescents during the Ibero-American Meeting on the Rights of Indigenous Children and Adolescents, held on 7 and 8 July 2005 in Madrid. The Forum welcomes such an initiative, which was organized by the UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean jointly with indigenous peoples, and recommends that all States and United Nations agencies in that region take concrete actions to implement the issues proclaimed in the declaration.

22. The Forum welcomes the expansion of the consultative indigenous group established by UNICEF in Latin America and the Caribbean to other United Nations agencies in the region following the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and encourages the establishment of such consultative groups in other regions and at the country level.

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[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 23* (E/2005/43), paras. 100, 102 and 104.

[4] Ibid., paras. 97-99.